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Joint Audit Committee
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB373: Department of Transportation - Notice of Entry Onto Private
Property**

House Health & Government Operations Committee
Tuesday, March 29, 2022 | 1pm
Emergency Bill

One of the biggest issues facing Montgomery County is the Governor's proposal to widen the Beltway (and I-270) with pricey toll lanes. Along with my Rockville and Gaithersburg constituents, residents of North Chevy Chase would be severely affected by the project.

In 2019, constituents of Del. Al Carr received a notice from the State Highway Administration, informing them that State employees might come onto their properties to take soil samples as part of the process for the proposed Beltway widening. Del. Carr contacted the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), asking for copies of the notice and a list of affected properties. MDOT refused his request, citing that this "sociological information" could not be shared under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA).

In the 2021 Session, Del. Carr sponsored [HB272](#) in order to address and clarify sections of the MPIA that MDOT used to deny his request. The bill passed unanimously in the House-- but ran out of time for a Senate hearing.

As amended in the Senate, [SB373](#) simply requires that the Maryland Department of Transportation provide a copy of any eminent domain survey notice to all General Assembly members who represent the district in which the property is located.

By doing this, the Maryland Department of Transportation will provide needed transparency for legislators who need to be aware of the happenings with their constituents.

I urge a favorable report on SB373.